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We may admit for it and hope for its successors that the policy exemplified by the series, as the Director claims in his prefatory note, "is clearly a long step in advance in the effort to make the decennial census of as much practical value to the Nation as possible" (page 7) and yet ask whether this effort goes more than half way toward the ideal. The Bureau of the Census ought to be the best place in the United States for the training of statisticians. A forceful and competent director, interested in securing that result, who had a reasonably permanent tenure and who was able to get backing from Congress, might make it so. In the twenty years of its life as a permanent office the Bureau has had directors of various types, but none, I believe, who has made this a real part of his job. Until his work is more nearly divorced from politics or until the assistant director becomes the permanent and recognized head of the scientific personnel and the director's chief of staff in all matters scientific or professional, the organization of the Bureau of the Census on the scientific side will continue to be seriously defective. Work like that I tried to do in 1900 and like Mr. Rossiter and his followers are doing in this series may salve the defect for an emergency; they cannot really cure it.

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*Wages and Hours in Anthracite Mining.* National Industrial Conference Board, Research Report Number 47. New York: The Century Co. 1922. 67 pp.

This report is compiled from questionnaires submitted to 47 per cent of the operating anthracite mining companies. It covers about 60 per cent of the employees in the anthracite mining industry. Women workers, boys, foremen, salaried and clerical workers are excluded from the report. Moreover, all employees who did not work within two days of the full time offered by the employers in the semi-monthly periods studied were excluded from the report. This was done because the mining companies contend that to include all wage-earners irrespective of the time worked "would give a distorted picture," since miners frequently shift from mine to mine or from job to job within the same mine. This turnover increases the total number on the payroll in any given period and lowers the apparent average earnings. The report itself recognizes the weakness of this procedure, for it says:

Obviously, the comprehensive way of dealing with the wages and hours of work situation in the anthracite mining industry would be to secure and analyze pertinent data for all mine workers, properly classified according to the number of days and hours worked in each pay period, and to give each group its proper weight in the final determination of the average conditions in the industry in respect to wage earnings and working time. This would also permit of definite evaluation in comprehensive and scientific manner of such peculiarities of labor turnover and payroll records as are claimed to exist in the industry. . . . In presenting the results of its investigation the Board therefore reserves judgment as to their adequacy in representing general wage-earning conditions in the industry until more evidence is available regarding the effects of excluding the shifting or part-time workers.

Nevertheless it is argued (p. 9) that the study "affords a fair picture of wage-earning conditions in the industry."

The schedules compiled were for the last half of each of the following months: June, 1914; October, 1920; March, 1921; June, 1921; and October, 1921. Taking June, 1914, as the base, average hourly earnings of all wage-earners covered except contract miners had risen to the index number of 266 by October, 1921; for contract miners, to 258. Semi-monthly earnings for all workers (contract miners excluded) had risen to 258 by October, 1921; for contract miners, to 243. The average weekly hours worked by all wage-earners (contract miners excluded) decreased from 51.6 hours in June, 1914, to 48.2 hours in October, 1921; for contract miners, from 42.4 hours to 39.9 hours.

These figures challenge one's attention. The award of the Anthracite Coal Commission in August, 1920, granted an increase in the gross tonnage rate for contract miners of 65 per cent over the 1916 rate. Since the 1916 rate was 7 per cent over the rate obtaining in June, 1914, the base period used by the Board, the tonnage rate for October, 1921, would be 76.5 per cent higher than the rate obtaining in June, 1914.<sup>1</sup> Yet the Board finds that the hourly earnings of contract miners had increased 158 per cent and the semi-monthly earnings 143 per cent. It is true that changes in the tonnage rates do not accurately represent changes in earnings because deductions for helpers and supplies have not changed in the same proportion.

The Board finds that the earnings of contract miners in June, 1914, averaged 41 cents an hour. The Board assumes that in 1914 contract miners worked on the average 8 hours per start or day (p. 12). This would make the daily earnings \$3.28 for June, 1914. Compare this with the 1914 daily wage of \$5.26 for contract miners as given in a table compiled from wage agreements and a memorandum submitted to the Conference of National Labor Adjusting Agencies of November, 1918.<sup>2</sup> On the other hand we find that the semi-monthly earnings of contract miners for October, 1921, as given by the Board were \$91.37, while the Bureau of Labor Statistics finds that the semi-monthly earnings for January, 1922, were \$86.60.<sup>3</sup> Considering the difference in periods as well as firms covered there appears here to be substantial agreement.

Turning now from the contract miners to the rest of the wage-earners we find a fairly close correspondence between the data presented by the Board and other available data. The following table compares the hourly rates compiled from the wage agreements and the memorandum submitted to the Conference of National Labor Adjusting Agencies with the hourly earnings given by the Board. The Board's figures are for June, 1914, while the memorandum figures are for 1914.

	N. I. C.	
	Board	Memorandum
Skilled labor (outside) . . . . .	.265	.277-.303
Common labor (outside) . . . . .	.183	.169-.203
Common labor (inside) . . . . .	.220	.225-.251
Skilled labor (inside) . . . . .	.275	.277-.303(company miners)

<sup>1</sup> *Bulletin of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics*, No. 279, p. 12.

<sup>2</sup> *Wages in Various Industries and Occupations*, Bureau of Applied Economics, Bulletin No. 8, p. 6. Mr. Ash's estimate, however, made in the *Labor Review* for October, 1920 (p. 104), corresponds much more closely with the Board's figures.

<sup>3</sup> *Monthly Labor Review*, May, 1922.

For the post-war period we find that the Board's figure for hourly earnings of skilled inside labor for October, 1921, is 0.677, while the data furnished by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for January, 1922, give 0.686 as the hourly earnings.<sup>1</sup> For common inside labor the Board's figure for October is 0.596, while the Bureau's data for January, 1922, give the hourly earnings as 0.599.<sup>2</sup> The semi-monthly earnings of skilled labor as shown by the Board were 9.5 per cent higher than the semi-monthly earnings shown by the Bureau. This is due to the fact that the average hours actually worked were considerably higher as shown by the Board than as shown by the Bureau. In the case of common labor the hours worked were about the same in the two studies, and therefore since the hourly earnings were similar the semi-monthly earnings were likewise similar.

The wage increases of contract miners especially (contract miners constitute about 30 per cent of all anthracite wage-earners) as shown in this report appear to be somewhat greater than other available data would indicate. This may be partly due to the questionnaire method which has been criticized by Mr. Douglas in previous issues of this JOURNAL. In part it may be due to the fact that the base period used by the Board (June, 1914) was far from normal, as the present reviewer has elsewhere attempted to show.<sup>3</sup> Although a study of wage rates would not be affected much by using such a base, a study of earnings using an abnormal period for a base would present a distorted picture. Again, it does not appear quite fair to compare the wages from October, 1920, to October, 1921, with those for June, 1914, without showing the earnings in the intervening period. The great increase in anthracite wages came in 1920. The earnings of anthracite labor in 1920 and 1921 were far more favorable than those of earlier years, particularly the years prior to 1918.

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*Report on Productive Industries, Railways, Taxes and Assessments, Waterways, and Miscellaneous Statistics of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the Year 1920.* Department of Internal Affairs. Compiled by the Bureau of Statistics and Information, M. Hoke Gottschall, Director, Harrisburg, Pa.: J. L. L. Kuhn, Printer to the Commonwealth. 1921. 1,040 pp.

In a "foreword" to this report the Secretary of Internal Affairs, James F. Woodward, makes the following statement in the opening paragraph:

In the year 1872 the first official report on industrial statistics for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was issued by the "Commissioner of Statistics" and the presentation of this report covering the year 1920, therefore, becomes the 48th Annual Report of the Bureau of Statistics and Information. The records of the Department of Internal Affairs show a complete set of these Annual Reports and they portray a marvelous development of industry in Pennsylvania.

<sup>1</sup> *Monthly Labor Review*, May, 1922. The above figure for skilled labor was obtained by taking a weighted average of the hourly earnings of blacksmiths, bratticemen, machinists, masons, company miners, timbermen, and trackmen as given by the Bureau.

<sup>2</sup> For common labor a weighted average of the hourly earnings of cagers, car-runners, drivers, and laborers was calculated.

<sup>3</sup> "The Buying Power of Labor During the War," this JOURNAL, March, 1922.